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## STRIKE WAKES IN WEST; GAINS IN EAST

### Stage Set For Illinois Primary

#### G.O.P. MAY GIVE STATE TO LOWDEN

Aside From Wood, Favorite Son Will Have Clear Field Tomorrow.

BY L. R. BLANCHARD.  
(United Press Staff Correspondent.)  
Chicago, April 12.—The red flare of old-time politics and old-time political enthusiasm lighted Illinois skies today.

Campaign hands brayed a battle-hymn for final political rallies in Chicago's streets; rostrums began bustling about the ears of prominent candidates and last minute appeals kept job presses busy. Illinois tomorrow will denote her preference for the presidential nomination. The preference will not be a hidden one. Delegates to the national convention, these latter are yet to be selected when ward and precinct committees, elected tomorrow, choose state delegations, and the state convention names the national delegates.

Illinois is divided into two main sections, Cook county and downstate. Cook county with about one-third the state vote.

Leave State to Lowden.  
The main show in the preferential vote will be the contest between Major General Leonard Wood and Governor F. O. Lowden in the Republican party. Aside from Wood, Republican candidates observed a favorite son courtesy by leaving the state to Lowden. Among Democrats there is no well defined contest. Candidates were nominated here, but withdrew before the lists were closed.

Both Lowden and Wood headquarters today issued brave statements regarding the outcome of the primaries.

The candidates covered the state thoroughly in stumping tours. Lowden closing his campaign with informal speeches here today. General Wood left Sunday for the east.

Pins Faith on Country.  
Among political posters there was a tendency to concede Lowden a better chance to capture the downstate vote. Cook county, with the Republican machinery, believed dominated by Mayor William Hale Thompson, was uncertain. Lowden said the governor worried little over Chicago's vote, being confident of reaching the county line with an overwhelming majority.

The strength of the two candidates was obscured in Cook county by the strenuous contest between three factions to obtain full control of the ward committee.

General Wood's committee, asserting an effort was made to inject ancient racial and religious prejudices in the battle issued a statement on his affiliations and his tolerance of others.

Johnson Men Active.  
Senator Hiram Johnson, enroute to Nebraska for the primary campaign there, paused here long enough to visit at the home of the Illinois frat. Johnson urged voters to write the senator's name in the ballot, adding one more angle to the race.

#### 13 MEX STATES MAY DUPLICATE SONORA REVOLT

Agua Prieta, Sonora, Mexico, April 12.—General J. M. Pino, commanding first divisional army of the state of Sonora, today announced he has received semi-official information that 13 additional states of the republic had voted to follow the example of the state of Sonora in seceding. Definite details as to the list of states is lacking, however.

El Paso, Texas, April 12.—Withdrawal of Sonora from the Caranza government of Mexico takes one of the largest tax-producing states from the central government, American and Mexican officials said today.

Agua Prieta, Sonora, Mexico, April 12.—Sonora military authorities announced today that the state troops which were recalled from the Sonora-Sinaloa boundary had been ordered back to the border line for patrol duty. It was explained that invasion by federalists here for several hours the United States weather station here expects the crest in the Mississippi river flood to be reached at 19 feet, probably tomorrow. This is four feet above flood stage. Today the river stood at 15.5 feet. No breaks in any levees in this district are anticipated.

ADMIRAL BENSON GETS NEW HONOR  
Baltimore, April 12.—Admiral William Benson was invested with the decoration of Knight of the Great Cross of St. Gregory.

#### WILSON IS NO WORSE, BUT HE GAINS SLOWLY

Vigorous Grasp of Affairs Expected in Spring is Wanting.

BY DAVID LAWRENCE.  
(Special to The Argus.)

Washington, April 12.—President Wilson isn't as much in evidence nowadays to pedestrians in the national capital as he was a fortnight ago and consequently a fresh series of rumors has begun to go the rounds. The automobile rides which had become a daily occurrence have been discontinued. This probably started gossip anew but the story that Mr. Wilson has suffered a relapse is given more credence in Washington than perhaps is justified because the White house policy of authorizing vague and fragmentary descriptions of the president's health coupled with an occasional statement from some attending physician completely confirming rumors that were previously current has bred many skeptics.

Has Been Busy.  
The discontinuance of the automobile rides of the president is explained in contradictory ways. One story emanating from the White house is to the effect that the president has lately been too busy with public affairs to get his accustomed outing. On the other hand, it is a fact that members of the cabinet are wondering whether the president considers them necessary at all for no cabinet meeting has been called in many months. One or two cabinet members feel that they ought to have the benefit of the advice and counsel and even instruction of their chief in these days of pressing governmental business.

Another story also given with a tinge of White house authority is to the effect that the president is under too great a nervous tension while motoring. People in the streets stared at him curiously wondering if all the gossip they had heard about his health were true. Unquestionably those photographs of the president didn't do him any good for they stirred up a morbid curiosity. The first plan of having a carefully posed picture of the president would probably have been the wiser for so many snapshots were taken that in some cases the effect of Mr. Wilson's illness was grossly exaggerated.

The president did appear thin but his countenance seemed to possess a ruddiness of color due no doubt to the long afternoons of exposure in the White house grounds.

No Sign of Relapse.  
If Mr. Wilson has suffered a relapse, however, there is nothing in the outward behavior of White house officials that gives the slightest confirmation of it. Preparations are going forward for the moving of the executive offices to Woods Hole, Mass., in the middle of next month.

(Continued on page four).

#### The Weather

Mostly cloudy and unsettled today afternoon and tonight. Colder tonight with the lowest temperature about 25 or 30 degrees; Tuesday fair with rising temperature.

Highest temperature yesterday, 58; lowest last night, 36.  
Wind velocity at 7 a. m., 20 miles per hour.

Precipitation, .15.

12 m. 7 p.m. 7 a.m.

Yesterday, yesterday, today

Dry bulb temp., 57 45 36

Wet bulb temp., 48 44 35

Relative humid., 51 93 87

#### Daily River Bulletin.

Change Stage, 24 hrs.

St. Paul ..... 8.6 —0.8

Red Wing ..... 8.4 —0.6

LaCrosse ..... 10.2 —0.8

Dubuque ..... 12.0 —1.4

LeClaire ..... 12.5 —0.6

Davenport ..... 16.1 —0.8

#### River Forecast.

Rapidly falling stages in the Mississippi will continue from below Dubuque to Muscatine until heavy rains occur.

J. M. SHERIER, Meteorologist.

#### LATE BULLETINS

Washington, April 12.—The state department today instructed American Commission at Berlin to take steps to stay execution of the death sentence reported to have been passed against Paul R. DeMott, an American, for participation in the Ruhr revolution.

Hannibal, Mo., April 12.—Although rain has been falling here for several hours the United States weather station here expects the crest in the Mississippi river flood to be reached at 19 feet, probably tomorrow. This is four feet above flood stage. Today the river stood at 15.5 feet. No breaks in any levees in this district are anticipated.

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#### RUHR MUST BE CLEARED, FRENCH SAY

British Told Troops Will Remain Until Germany Withdraws.

BY HERBERT W. WALKER.  
(United Press Staff Correspondent.)

Washington, April 12.—Criminal prosecutions by the department of justice and suits to recover \$78,000,000, alleged to represent government losses through fraud, waste and extravagance in the cost plus system of contracts for building the 16 national army cantonments, were demanded today in a report to the house by the subcommittee on camps and cantonments of the war department expenditures committee.

Survey Took Year.  
The report, which is the result of nearly a year's investigation, recommends an amendment to the constitution making profiteering in war time treason and legislation to prohibit all cost plus contracts.

Representative McKenzie, Illinois, and Representative McCulloch, Ohio, Republican, members of the subcommittee, signed the report while Representative Doremus, Michigan, member, in a minority report, declared there was found "very little" evidence of fraud and had adopted the cost plus system not had adopted "the Germans would have been in Paris before our soldiers reached the battle lines."

Loss 30-50 Per Cent.  
Of all camps and cantonments built during the war at a cost of approximately \$1,200,000,000, the majority report estimates that the alleged loss to the government from fraud and extravagance due to the cost plus system ranged from 30 to 50 per cent.

The committee audited the contracts of the 16 national army camps and claims that the loss to the government was \$78,000,000 out of a total of \$200,000,000. Skilled contractors have gone over the accounts and determined these figures, which should be recovered from the treasury, the report says.

Baker Is Blamed.  
Responsibility for the losses is placed on Secretary of War Baker, who is said by the majority of the subcommittee to have approved the contracts both as head of the war department and the council of national defense.

The majority report gives scores of instances of alleged waste in the cost-plus system and specifically charges A. Bentley & Sons company, who held the contract for Camp Sherman, Chillicothe, Ohio, with receiving illegal payments to the extent of \$189,372.78.

Some of the most glaring examples of waste of public funds are found at Camp Sherman and Camp Grant, Illinois, the report claims.

A short time after the West company fire was placed under control, two companies were called from the 1500 block blaze to 1806 First avenue, a rooming house.

The roof was ablaze, it being believed that sparks from a passing train set fire to the wooden shingles. The loss was nominal.

Second Fire.  
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#### HOUSE GETS EXTRA! LOOP BLAZE IS CAUSE OF \$10,000 LOSS

RAIL HEADS GET TERMS WITH CONCESSION ABROGATING BACK PAY.

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#### PEACE BIDS PRESENTED AT CHICAGO

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#### U. S. PLANS TO ACT IF STRIKE TIES UP MAILES

RAIL HEADS GET TERMS WITH CONCESSION ABROGATING BACK PAY.

BY HERBERT W. WALKER.  
(United Press Staff Correspondent.)

Washington, April 12.—Vigorous action will be taken if there is any interference with the transportation of the mails as a result of the railroad strikes, it was announced today at the postoffice department. Otto Praeger, second assistant postmaster general, has sent the following telegram of instructions to all superintendents of the railway mail service:

Instruct all chief clerks, transfer clerks and others to report any obstructions, directly or indirectly, by conspiracy or otherwise, with passage of mails as result of strikes, together with names of person or persons involved. Bring to immediate attention of local postoffice inspectors, inspector in charge and United States district attorney, with request that offenders be vigorously prosecuted if facts warrant. See section 1620, 1712, 1711 and 1718, postal laws.

Reports to the postoffice department today were encouraging. Chicago reported that local conditions were "very good" and that the "railway companies were handling all mails promptly."

A report from New York said conditions had improved and a similar report came from St. Louis. Some delay in mail was reported from several points where the men are on strike, but officials said that thus far there had been no serious obstruction of the mail.

There will be no investigation of the strike for the present by the senate interstate commerce committee. Chairman Cummins announced today, after receiving assurance at the White house that the railroad labor board would be appointed within 24 hours.

Peoria, Ill., April 12.—Switchmen on all railroads except the Rock Island were out here this morning and the Rock Island lines men were expected to strike before the day is over.

A meeting of the strikers was to be held this morning to form a new union. Railroad officials were handling the switching of passenger cars so as to keep passenger traffic moving and promised to keep the electric lighting and water plants supplied with cars of coal.

Chicago, April 12.—Developments west of Pittsburgh in the switchmen's unauthorized strike today were regarded by railroad brotherhood officials as pointing toward a gradual dissolution of the insurgent forces, but in the east, where the walkout was joined in several districts by trainmen, the situation assumed a more serious aspect.

In the central and far west, numerous reports of defections from the strikers' ranks followed the report of the first important break at Columbus, Ohio, where 600 switchmen voted to return to work.

At Chicago, admitted keystone of the walkout, railroad officials were presented "terms for settlement of the strike," which included recognition of the new union formed by dissenters from the Brotherhood of Trainmen and the Switchmen's Union of North America.

One Radical Change.  
In the settlement offer proffered by John Grunau, president of the Chicago Yardmen's association, who called the strike, at least one radical concession was made—abrogation of the claims for back pay demanded by the older organizations in the contracts with the government. That possibility would mean a saving of hundreds of thousands of dollars to the railroads, it was said.

Other clauses in the proposed settlement agreement, demanded by the original strikers, were increase called for in the strike announcement, to be effective upon the return of the men to work: Eight-hour basic day and time and one-half overtime; Sundays and holidays; and double time for overtime on Sundays and 1 holidays.

Report Four Breaks.  
In addition to the gradual improvement claimed by railroad heads in the Chicago district, the organization leaders pointed to the votes at Columbus, Fort Wayne, Ind., Akron, Ohio, and Saginaw, Mich., as making definite breaks in the strike.

In the far west and various other cities in the middle west, local unions voted not to join the strike. Seattle, Tacoma, Everett and Auburn, Wash., and Cincinnati, Little Rock, Ark., Memphis, Tenn., and St. Joseph, Mo., switchmen registering that intention.

Yardmen at Duluth, Minn., and Superior, Wis., decided to continue at work and await development.

Officials of the Terminal Railroad association at St. Louis said conditions were improved. The company's engineers voted to remain "local."

Despite these reports, Grunau declared "we are going to win."

In the Chicago district and at neighboring steel centers, thousands of men were idle today because of the strike at the Chicago

(Continued on Page Eleven.)

#### NEW YORK DESPERATE OVER TIEUP

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